2

What is claimed is:

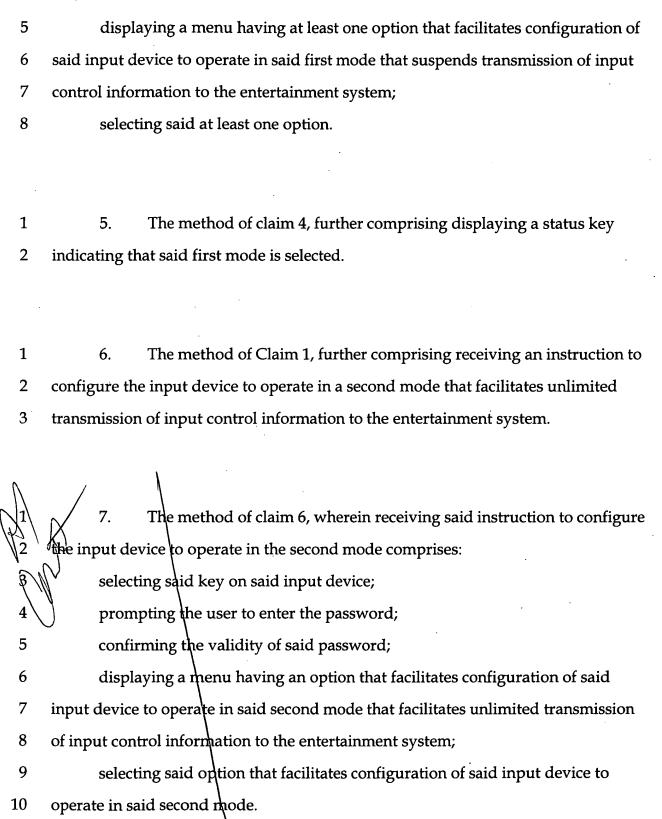
1	1. A method for controlling the transmission of control information to ar
(2)	input device in an entertainment system, comprising:
J'∕ 3 (`	receiving programming data associated with a broadcast channel

displaying a show associated with the channel;

configuring an input device to operate in a first mode that suspends 5 transmission of input control information entered via said input device, to the 6

7 entertainment system.

- 2. 1 The method of claim 1, further comprising displaying a message 2 indicating that said input device is configured to operate in the first mode.
- 3. 1 The method of claim 2, wherein said message is displayed for a predetermined period of time.
- The method of claim 1, wherein configuring the input device 1 4.
- 2 comprises:
- 3 selecting a key on said input device;
- prompting the user to enter a password; 4



Docket No. 155698-0009 Express Mail No. EL692572581US

Ţ	8.	The method of claim 7, further comprising displaying a message		
2	indicating that said input device is configured to operate in the second mode.			
1	9.	The method of claim 1, further comprising terminating transmission of		
2	all input cor	trol information to said entertainment system entered via said input		
3	device.			
4	10.	The method of claim 9, further comprising reactivating transmission of		
5	all input cor	trol information to said entertainment system entered via said input		
6.	device upon	selection of a dedicated key on said input device.		
	ſ			
1	11\	An entertainment system comprising:		
V	a dist	play monitor; and		
13/	ζ ,	dcast receiver coupled to the display monitor, the broadcast receiver		
$\mathcal{I}_{4}^{(\zeta)}$	including			
5	hantare	a front-end unit capable of receiving programming data associated		
6	with	a show broadcast for viewing on the display monitor,		
7	- WILL	a memory, and		
8		ral processing unit coupled to the memory, the central processing		
9	unit coupled to receive programming data associated with a broadcast channel,			
10	-	rocessing unit to execute software to display a show associated with		
11	the channel, said central phocessing unit to execute software to configure an			

-18-

Patent Application December 20, 2000

- 12 input device to operate in a first mode that suspends transmission of input
- 13 control information entered via said input device, to the entertainment system.
- 1 12. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein the central processing
- 2 unit further executes software to display a message indicating that said input device
- 3 is configured to operate in the first mode.
- 1 13. The entertainment system of claim 12, wherein said message is
- 2 displayed for a predetermined period of time.
 - 14. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein configuring the input device comprises:
 - selecting a key on said input device;
 - prompting the user to enter a password;
- 5 displaying a menu having at least one option that facilitates configuration of
- 6 said input device to operate in said first mode that suspends transmission of input
- 7 control information to the entertainment system;
- 8 selecting said at least one option.
- 1 15. The entertainment system of claim 14, wherein said central processing
- 2 unit further executes software to display a status key indicating that said first mode
- 3 is selected.

8

9

10

1

2

3

1	16. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein said central processing		
2	unit further receives an instruction to configure the input device to operate in a		
3	second mode that facilitates unlimited transmission of input control information to		
4	the entertainment system.		

17. The entertainment system of claim 16, wherein receiving said instruction to configure the input device to operate in the second mode comprises: selecting said key on said input device; prompting the user to enter the password; confirming the validity of said password; displaying a menu having an option that facilitates configuration of said input device to operate in said second mode that facilitates unlimited transmission of input control information to the entertainment system; selecting said option that facilitates configuration of said input device to operate in said second mode.

18. The entertainment system of claim 17, wherein said central processing unit further displays a message indicating that said input device is configured to operate in the second mode.

- 1 19. The entertainment system of claim 11, wherein transmission of all
- 2 input control information to said entertainment system entered via said input device
- 3 is terminated.
- 1 20. The entertainment system of claim 19, wherein transmission of all
- 2 input control information to said entertainment system entered via said input device
- 3 is reactivated, upon selection of a dedicated key on said input device.